

(d) the total earnings for the export of coal annually to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Coal India Limited (CIL) exported a total of 15,823 tonnes of coal during the year 1995-96 from the collieries situated in Bihar. Out of this, exports to Nepal were 15,715 tonnes and the balance 108 tonnes was exported to Bangladesh. These exports were made through global tenders floated by CIL.

(c) The total quantity of coal extracted by CIL from Bihar during the year 1995-96 is 68.87 million tonnes (provisional).

(d) The total earning from the export of coal produced in the State of Bihar was about Rs. 16.63 crores.

Export Commitments

2257. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure followed by the Government to ensure that exports do take place as per commitment made by the companies;

(b) the details of companies who have failed in their export commitment during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The exporters undertake export obligation in the following two broad categories of licences :

- (i) Licences for the imports of Capital Goods under the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG).
- (ii) Licences for the import of raw materials, intermediate, components, consumables, parts, accessories, mandatory spares under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES).

Under the EPCG Scheme, the export obligation is required to be fulfilled within 5 to 8 years, as the case may be, as laid down in para 38 of Export and Import Policy 1992-97. In case of licences issued under the DES, the period of fulfilment of export obligation is 12 months. Extension upto one more year can be granted by the Regional Licensing Authority. In exceptional cases, extension for further period can be granted by the Advance Licensing Committee. The Export Obligation periods in both types of licences commence from the dates of issue of licences. The procedure to monitor the export obligation in respect of licences issued under EPCG Scheme and DES Scheme is provided in Paras 103 to 105, and Paras 118, 124 to

129 of Handbook of Procedure, Vol. I, 1992-97, respectively.

(b) Under the EPCG Scheme, the period of fulfilment of export obligation is 5/8 years. Since the said scheme was introduced only in 1991, it is too early to say who all the defaulters are.

Under the DES Scheme, it is reported that, in 43286 cases, the export obligations have not been fulfilled so far in respect of Advance Licences issued during the last 3 years, that is, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96. However, the aforesaid licences are still at various stages of operation, and hence, it is difficult to provide the details of companies who have actually failed in their export commitment during the last 3 years.

(c) The cases of bonafide default in fulfilment of export obligation are regularised by the licensing authorities in accordance with the regularisation procedure as laid down in para 128 of the Handbook of Procedure, Vol. I, 1992-97 which envisages payment of customs duty and interest thereon on the unutilised imported material and surrender of freely transferable Special Import Licences for a specified value.

In case the licence holder fails to complete the export obligation within the stipulated or extended period, and also fails to regularise the default in the fulfilment of the export obligation in accordance with the regularisation procedure the following actions are taken against him :-

- (i) Enforcement of Bank Guarantee/Legal Undertaking.
- (ii) Rendering the firm ineligible to receive further licences.
- (iii) Imposition of penalty under the proposition of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Rules made thereunder.

Irregularity in Clearing Cheques by Bank Officials

2258. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the judgement delivered by the Supreme Court in the matter of Central Bank of India Vs. Nikunja Bihari Patnaik which has also been published in the Hindustan Times dated 26th April, 1996;

(b) if so, the number of instances that have come to light where the officers allowed overdrafts or passed cheques involving substantial amounts beyond their authority in the private and public sector banks branch-wise and the action taken against those officers during the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken to enforce the laid down norms in the banking industry including private sector banks?